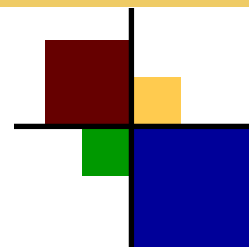


JJAB NEWS & VIEWS



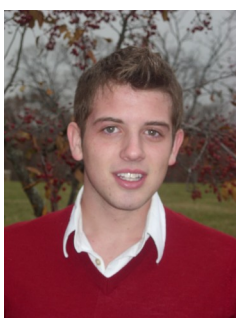
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Benjamin Deaton Named National Youth Chair



At the Coalition for Juvenile Justice Council of SAG's meeting in May 2009, Benjamin Deaton was elected Youth Chair to the Coalition for Juvenile Justice Executive Board. His term began in July of 2009.

Mr. Deaton was also reelected as Youth Representative of the Southern Region. He is the first youth member from Kentucky to be nominated and elected to the national youth chair position.

"Benjamin Deaton's election as National Youth Chair brings honor to Kentucky's JJAB and to our state," said Kaye Jones Templin, Chair of the Kentucky Juvenile Justice Advisory Board. "Ben's energy and commitment will be an asset to the organization."

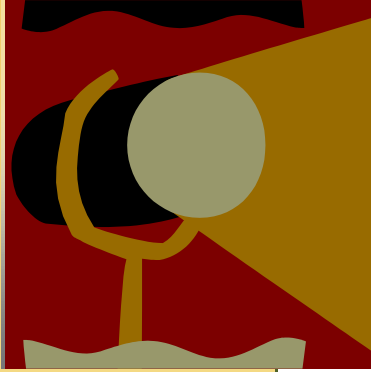
"It is an honor to serve as the National Youth Chair for the Coalition for Juvenile Justice," said Deaton.

Mr. Deaton kicked off his term as chair by attending the first ever CJJ Youth Meeting in Washington, D.C. in July. The session was attended by young people from across the country with a focus on bringing youth issues to the forefront.

"We had a great working session," said Deaton. I hope to increase youth representation and participation on State Advisory Groups (SAG) across the country over the next year."

Mr. Deaton's goals for the next year include working with CJJ to produce a youth manual to increase youth participation and involvement, increasing internships for young people and increasing training opportunities for youth.

Speak Up!



Arshiya Saiyed, SKY Member

"As a former youth-attorney for the Teen Court Program, I understood just a small portion of the overall Juvenile Justice system. Now as a youth member of JJAB, I have a much more full understanding of each step a juvenile takes as he or she enters the system. I hope to continue to learn more as a JJAB member and use my past experiences to enrich meetings and eventually improve policies."

Juvenile Justice Advisory Board

The Juvenile Justice Advisory Board is Kentucky's federally mandated State Advisory Group (SAG) on juvenile justice issues. Created in 1997, it has played a pivotal role in reforming Kentucky's juvenile justice system and creating an effective, equitable system to prevent juvenile crime and delinquency.

VALUES STATEMENT

The Juvenile Justice Advisory Board believes that an investment in youth today is an investment in the future. It values a system in which youth are held accountable while being provided appropriate and effective prevention, interventions and treatment programs and services. It values the diversity of all youth and believes that youth should be treated justly, respectfully and equitably regardless of age, race, gender, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status.

VISION

The Juvenile Justice Advisory Board aspires to make a difference in the lives of Kentucky youth and their families by being the voice for young people without a voice, by building bridges to communication and collaboration at all levels of the juvenile justice system, and by promoting opportunities for all youth to achieve success.

MISSION

The Juvenile Justice Advisory Board is committed to enhancing the quality of life for all youth in the Commonwealth by actively advising the Governor, policymakers and the public on matters related to improving system of care, enhancing interagency community collaboration, and promoting effective programming necessary to serve the whole child.



JJAB Member Spotlight: Patrick Yewell



Patrick Yewell serves as the Executive Officer of the Department of Family and Juvenile Services for the Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts.

Since his appointment by the Chief Justice of the Kentucky Supreme Court in 1994, Mr. Yewell has provided programs that best meet the needs of children in the Commonwealth through outreach, prevention, education and diversion. Mr. Yewell oversees and supports dependent child advocacy boards and initiatives that expedite the permanent placement of Kentucky's abused and neglected children. He also administers the Kentucky Court Improvement Project, recruits, trains and provides other services to volunteers for the Citizen Foster Care Review Boards (CFCRBs), and coordinates the education program for the Guardian *ad Litem* and Dependency, Neglect and Abuse Judicial Training initiatives.

Mr. Yewell was appointed to the Juvenile Justice Advisory Board in 2003.

"The Juvenile Justice Advisory Board (JJAB) has allowed me and the Court of Justice the opportunity to be at the table with other agencies, advocates, and other juvenile justice professionals to design a clear road map for Kentucky's Juvenile system and its future," said Yewell.

It is especially rewarding for Mr. Yewell after surviving the foster care system. He credits some of his successful transition to adults who took special interest in him as a child. "We all have a story and a path we have taken", said Yewell. "We are just one phone call, one mistake from somehow being involved in the justice system."

Mr. Yewell oversees the Court Designated Worker Program (CDW). CDWs are responsible for placing children in alternative placements prior to arraignment, conducting preliminary investigations, and formulating, entering into, and supervising diversion agreements and performing such other functions as authorized by law or court order. He manages the Family and Juvenile Drug Court Programs to address substance abuse. Mr. Yewell also administers Law Related Education Programs which work to demystify the law, enhance citizenship, and develop court-community partnerships that help Kentucky's adults and juveniles better understand the court system. His commitment to Kentucky's youth can be seen through the continuum of services and programs he oversees.

"It has been a privilege to serve on the JJAB and I look forward to the opportunities and hope that we can truly make a difference to the children that society has often forgotten and often go unheard," said Yewell.

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SEJAY (Subcommittee of Equity and Justice for All Youth)



The Subcommittee of Equity and Justice for All Youth (SEJAY) advises the JJAB and the Commonwealth of Kentucky on the issue of disproportionate minority representation in the juvenile justice system, and its causes and remedies; advocates for the full implementation of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, especially the fourth core requirement; develops policy and funding recommendations relating to this issue; and supports efforts to improve the quality of juvenile justice for all Kentucky citizens.

Mission Statement:

The SEJAY will promote equality for all youth in Kentucky's Juvenile Justice System through recommendations based on research; training; education; policy; and program implementation, with a current priority on Disproportionate Minority Confinement (DMC).

SEJAY Member Spotlight

Randy Thomas, SEJAY Vice Chair

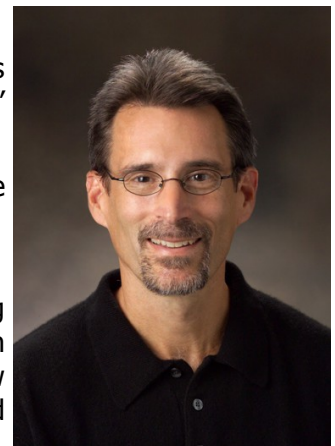
Randy Thomas has been a member of the Subcommittee of Equity and Justice for All Youth (SEJAY) since 2001. In July of 2009, he was elected Vice Chair of the subcommittee.

Over the last eight years, Mr. Thomas has seen a lot of progress in addressing Disproportionate Minority Contact in Kentucky but understands there is more work to do.

"Over the next year, I hope to help SEJAY refine our ongoing efforts to identify and engage new communities in our DMC initiatives," said Thomas.

Mr. Thomas has also been a long time member of the Fayette County DMC reduction initiative and recognizes the support that local communities need to address DMC.

"I hope to help SEJAY find new ways to support the longstanding and progressive DMC work taking place in Fayette and Jefferson Counties," said Thomas. "I also hope to help SEJAY develop new strategies to support DMC interests and efforts in Christian and Madison Counties."



The SEJAY Subcommittee advises the JJAB and the Commonwealth of Kentucky on the issue of disproportionate minority representation in the juvenile justice system. Mr. Thomas recognizes the impact the SEJAY has had on DMC in Kentucky but realizes more exposure of the SEJAY's work is a key element of addressing DMC statewide.

"I hope to gain greater professional and public exposure for the work of the SEJAY, both within and outside of Kentucky," stated Thomas.

For more information about the SEJAY, contact Laura McCauley at 502-403-9150 or log onto <http://jjab.ky.gov/>.

DMC Spotlight : Jefferson County

History/Background

In 2003, Jefferson County, with technical assistance from the W. Haywood Burns Institute (BI), a national leader in the field of juvenile justice reform, launched a DMC (Disproportionate Minority Confinement) reduction initiative. Jefferson County was the ninth jurisdiction in the country to implement the BI model, a three-year initiative designed to build jurisdictions' capacity to reduce DMC. Jefferson County stakeholders were aware they had a serious DMC problem. In 2002, more than 1,700 youth were detained in the local youth detention center and 63 percent of those detainees were African American, despite that African American youth made up just 25 percent of the youth population in Jefferson County.

The goal of BI's DMC reduction model is to build jurisdictions' capacity to address the problem of over-representation of youth of color in the juvenile justice system. Strategies associated with the model include:

- Convening and sustaining a collaborative of inter-agency system stakeholders and community stakeholders to address the problem of DMC;
- Building system stakeholders' capacity to collect, analyze and use data to identify systemic factors contributing to DMC and to identify specific neighborhoods with disproportionate numbers of youth in detention;
- Building system and community stakeholders' capacity to develop data-driven strategies to reduce racial disparities;
- Institutionalizing the DMC monitoring process within local jurisdictions; and
- Making DMC monitoring results public to increase system accountability and public awareness about the problem of DMC.

(Continued on page 8)



Community members participate in
Newburg Community Forum

The next
SEJAY meeting is
November 10,
2009
10:00am-12:00pm
EST.
Contact
Laura McCauley at
502-403-9150 for
meeting location.



The Voices of
Kentucky Youth



Subcommittee of Kentucky Youth (SKY)

The purpose of the Subcommittee of Kentucky Youth (SKY) is to unite youth across the state of Kentucky in an effort to advise the Kentucky Juvenile Justice Advisory Board and the Commonwealth of Kentucky on issues concerning youth. Formed in 2007, the SKY is made up of young people, ages 14-24, from across the Commonwealth.

*The mission of the
Subcommittee of Kentucky Youth (SKY) is to
provide young people with an
opportunity to voice their
perspectives, ideas and concerns in order to make
recommendations to the Juvenile
Justice Advisory Board.*

Welcome New JJAB Members!

**Robin Bradley
Randy Hensley
Edward Palmer
Wayne Rutherford**

*Submit information for the newsletter!
Send ideas, articles and pictures
to Stephanie Reynolds at
StephanieL.Reynolds@ky.gov*

SKY Spotlight: Candace Moberly



Candace Moberly was appointed to the Juvenile Justice Advisory Board (JJAB) in September of 2008. Shortly thereafter, she joined the Subcommittee of Kentucky Youth (SKY) and has been an active member of the subcommittee.

"I like being able to work with others for a cause that is near and dear to my heart," said Moberly.

Candace has been an active member of both the JJAB and SKY over the last year. She has been able to provide a youthful perspective to the board. She enjoys attending meetings and appreciates the opportunity to "work with committed individuals that I can aspire to be like."

Candace is currently a student at Centre College studying Government. She hopes to one day be a state legislator or governor. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling and spending time with friends.

"I like being able to work with others for a cause that is near and dear to my heart."

How can you become a SKY member?

For more information about becoming a SKY member,
please contact
Stephanie Reynolds at StephanieL.Reynolds@ky.gov.

(DMC Spotlight: Jefferson County Continued)

Louisville-Jefferson County Metro Government received an initial one-year grant and two subsequent renewal grants from the Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice to implement the BI model. The DMC Initiative began in July of 2003 with BI staff providing on-site and on-call technical assistance. Although the initial technical assistance contract with the Burns Institute ended in June of 2006, the Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice has continued to contract with BI to provide a limited level of technical assistance as Louisville Metro continues to pursue its strategies to reduce DMC.



Community leaders participate in Newburg Community Forum

Key Findings

Louisville Metro achieved a high level of success with most of the short-term and intermediate outcomes associated with the Burns Institute Model. System affiliated and community representatives convened for more than five years and continue to meet to identify factors contributing to DMC and to implement targeted intervention strategies. The advisory board and its staff have become increasingly sophisticated in the use of data to determine which neighborhoods were contributing the greatest numbers of youth to detention, to identify top offenses among these youth, and to monitor changes on specific indicators after implementing strategies intended to reduce DMC. As part of DMC reduction efforts, Louisville Metro initiated and pursued the following strategies:

- Adopting and implementing a new bench warrant policy to eliminate automatic holds;
- Implementing a pre-trial diversion field release program to minimize unnecessary detention of juveniles; and
- Creating and piloting a new risk assessment instrument.

Although Louisville Metro has not experienced a decrease in its overall levels of DMC, findings suggest the implementation of the above specific strategies did have a positive effect. There has been a 41 percent decrease in the number of youth detained on a bench warrant from 2005 to 2008 due to the new bench warrant policy that was implemented and designed to eliminate automatic holds. Data also indicates that in the first six months of 2009, 42 percent of all youth picked up on a bench warrant were released to parents/guardians as opposed to being detained; this is a significant increase in the number of releases when compared to prior years (20% in 2008, 16% in 2007, and 18% in 2006).

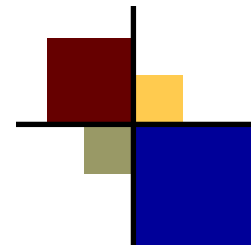
The Pre-trial Diversion Field Release Program began as a pilot project supported by the Subcommittee on Equity and Justice for all Youth (SEJAY) funds, and in 2007 was fully implemented in every Louisville Metro Police Division. As a result, there has been a 25 percent decrease in the number of youth processed at the local detention facility.

The DMC Advisory Board worked over two years to develop and pilot a new objective risk assessment instrument. The pilot project was intended to compare the results from the form currently used in determining pre-adjudication detention with the results of a new point-based, objective risk assessment instrument. While there were no significant changes in the proportion of detained youth of color compared to white youth, the new risk assessment instrument would significantly reduce the number of youth of all races detained before an adjudication hearing. To promote consistency, a statewide committee has been formed to consider recommending the implementation of a similar pilot on a statewide level.

The BI model stresses the importance of engaging the community in DMC reduction work at the local level. As an outgrowth of the DMC community mapping phase of the project, the Newburg Youth Council (NYC) was formed and has provided a forum for the community to become engaged in many neighborhood efforts impacting youth and families. Just recently, the NYC sponsored a joint offender reentry and DMC community forum bringing together system stakeholders and community residents. Over 100 people participated in the three-hour event and attended various workshops addressing juvenile crime, job and work readiness, and reentry. The forum included a stakeholder panel comprised of various system and community representatives.

The BI model stresses the importance of engaging the community in DMC reduction work at the local level.

For more information on the Louisville Metro Disproportionate Minority Confinement Advisory Board, please contact Faith Augustine by email at faith.augustine@louisvilleky.gov or by phone at 502-574-5120.



JJAB 2009 Meeting Schedule

February 20
April 23
June 26
September 17 & 18
October 22
December 11

For more information about meeting times and locations,
contact **Stephanie Reynolds**
at
StephanieL.Reynolds@ky.gov

Look for Us on the Web!
<http://jjab.gov/default.htm>

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